

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

December 9, 2010

Minutes of the Economic Development Commission held at 8:15 A.M., on Thursday, December 9, 2010.

Members Present: First Selectman Freda, Richard LoPresti, Todd DePino, Frank Maher, Radha Prasad, William Gambardella, Walter Mann, Mr. Stephen F. Darley

Members Absent: Deborah Moore

Mr. Freda introduced and welcomed new member Stephen F. Darley to the Commission.

SHOW AND SELL – LESSONS LEARNED

Mr. Prasad stated that Show and Sell was very successful and commended Mr. Mann for all his hard work.

Mr. Maher said that the covering for the gym floor was missing and we were unable to protect the floor. In the future, we should consider getting tables with rubber caps on the legs.

Mr. Mann said that he thought that the venue (North Haven High School) worked out very well and he suggested that we begin planning earlier to allow for better publicity and coordination.

Mr. DePino thought the layout was good but the food vendors were off the beaten path. Mr. Gambardella suggested placing them in the foyer/hallway.

Mr. LoPresti said about 700-800 people attended. He also recommended that we begin planning for next year's event much earlier. He also suggested putting the premium vendors in the gym instead of the hallway and having a vendor supply coffee/tea/hot chocolate, etc.

Mr. Freda said that we should allow one (1) hour before the program begins for vendors to network with one another. He said that the businesses loved the event and appreciated the free camera time they received. NHTV will air the show next week.

COMMISSION UPDATE

Mr. Mann contacted the owner of Bed, Bath & Beyond/Home Goods/Christmas Tree Shop. He asked if they would consider locating a Christmas Tree Shop on Universal Drive. The owner said that North Haven is too close to the Milford store and it would cannibalize it.

Mr. Mann also said that Freightliner of Branford is looking for a building in North Haven and asked Commission members if they knew of any locations in North Haven that could accommodate this business. He asked members to let him know if they become aware of any possibilities.

Mr. LoPresti recommended that an Economic Development Breakfast be scheduled for April at the Holiday Inn. He suggested that the theme of the breakfast be centered on the medical facilities that are coming to North Haven. He thought that the breakfast should not be longer than ½ hours. Mr. Mann suggested that we showcase all new businesses in Town.

M. FREDA UPDATE

Mr. Freda said that Yale is moving forward with the Certificate of Need for the medical facility on Devine Street. He stated that he will be doing community outreach and press conferences with Yale.

Castle Corp. in concert with Yale but not directly related is interested in purchasing 7.73 acres on State Street for a professional office center.

297 State Street is moving along and the phase-in of new tenants will take place within 12-18 months.

Mr. Freda met with Doug Gray (North Haven Commons) and took him to look at three sites for possible retail/mall locations. He also met with 17 commercial real estate agents in Town to create an inventory of available properties with the intent of matching them up with tenants.

Mr. Freda said that the Rabina property faces many challenges to get it up and running. There currently is no tenant interest. He will continue to work on this property and then would like to concentrate his efforts on northern Washington Avenue.

Mr. Freda would like the Commission to be pro-active and suggested that we set up sub-committees that can meet and discuss opportunities and report back at our monthly meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for January 27, 2011, at 8:15 a.m.

There being no further business before the Commission Mr. Freda moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 AM, seconded by Mr. Mann.